

WILLIAM FRANCIS RABORN, JR.

Director of Central Intelligence

Vice Admiral William Francis Raborn, Jr., United States Navy (Retired), was selected Director of Central Intelligence by President Johnson, according to an announcement made 11 April 1965. The Senate confirmed his nomination 11 days later, and he was sworn in on 28 April. He is the third Naval officer to be Director of Central Intelligence.

He is recognized as a scientist, a proved administrator, a skilled organizer, a command Naval officer who has been a combat aviator, and the developer of the Navy's Polaris missile and fleet ballistic missile system.

Admiral Raborn was born in Decatur, Texas, 8 June 1905. He attended public schools in Ryan and Marlow, Oklahoma. In 1924 he was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy by Senator Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma. He graduated from the Academy and was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy 7 June 1928.

Following graduation, he performed gunnery duty aboard the USS Texas and the destroyers Twiggs and Dickerson until June 1933. He was assigned to flight training at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, and was designated Naval Aviator in April of the following year.

In June 1934 he was assigned to Fighting Squadron 5 aboard the carrier Lexington. He continued in this type of duty assignment in other naval fighter squadrons until June 1937, when he returned to the Naval

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Air Station at Pensacola to serve as an instructor. He then returned to duty with naval fighter units. In August 1942, he reported to the Free Gunnery School, U.S. Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, as Officer in Charge where he initiated, developed, and organized the Aviation Free Gunnery School.

From March 1943 to the Fall of 1944, he was assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air and served there as head of Aviation Gunnery Training. He then joined the USS Hancock as Executive Officer. The Hancock carried out operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands, the South China Sea, Iwo Jima, and the Japanese Homeland.

His subsequent naval assignments, beginning in June 1945, were: Chief of Staff to Commander Task Force 38 and Commander Carrier Division Two in the Western Pacific; Operations Officer on the staff of the Commander, Fleet Air, with headquarters in San Diego, California; and the Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department, Washington, D.C., where he was responsible for the development of guided missiles and aviation ordnance. In July 1950, he assumed command of the USS Bairoko, which conducted training in anti-submarine warfare in waters off Japan, Okinawa, and Formosa.

He attended the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, in 1951 and 1952. In July 1952, he was designated Assistant Director of the Guided

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Missiles Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department. He continued in this assignment until he assumed command of the USS Bennington in April 1954. He then served as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations on the staff of the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet from February 1955 until December 1955 when he reported as Director of Special Projects, Department of the Navy.

As Director of Special Projects he was charged with the task of developing a fleet ballistic missile system -- the Polaris. He established the Special Projects Office, Department of the Navy, and created a management system, implementing a new management tool -- the Progress Evaluation Reporting Technique. This system has been adopted extensively in many areas of American industry.

The operational readiness of the fleet ballistic missile system was established by two underwater launchings of Polaris missiles on 20 July 1960. On 9 March 1962, he became Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Development), Navy Department. Admiral Raborn was retired from the Navy on 1 September 1963.

At the time of his nomination to the position of Director of Central Intelligence, Admiral Raborn was Vice President for Program-Management at the Aerojet-General Corporation.

Admiral Raborn has received the following awards: Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with Silver

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Star, the Commendation Ribbon with Bronze Star, the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Medal with one Silver Star and one Bronze Star (6 engagements), the World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Philippine Defense Ribbon. President Kennedy presented Admiral Raborn with the Collier Trophy Award in 1963.

Admiral Raborn is married to the former Mildred T. Terrill of Baytown, Texas. He has two children, Mrs. Barbara Raborn Richardson and William Francis Raborn, III.

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